handloom schemes being implemented in the country, particularly in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new schemes have been formulated or are proposed to be formulated, to promote handlooms in the country, particularly in North Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A study on Handloom Sector Schemes i.e. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Handloom Export Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Marketing Promotion Programme has been conducted through National Institute of Small Industries (NISIET) in some of the States including North Eastern States during 2006-07. The study has suggested continuation of the schemes during XI Plan. It is proposed to continue the schemes during the XI Plan with some modifications for implementation in the country including North Eastern States.

(c) and (d) During 2005-06, the Government of India introduced Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Health Insurance Scheme for providing Health Care Facilities to handloom weavers and the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing Insurance cover to handloom weavers in the country including North Eastern States in case of natural as well as accidental death. During 2006-07, the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) for handloom sector was launched on 31st July, 2006. Handloom Mark was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 28th June, 2006 under Marketing Promotion Programme to provide brand identity to the Handloom products and increase the sales of Handloom products in India and aboard.

Opening Government/PSU units of benefites of integrated textile parks

1787. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for integrated textiles parks has been

formulated by merging the two existing schemes, namely Scheme for Apparel Parks of Exports and Textiles Sectors Infrastructure Development Scheme;

(b)if so, whether the garment/textile manufactures, groups or certain companies under them only would be beneficiaries of this provision under this scheme;

(c)what are the reasons for depriving Government Institutions or Government PSU Units, the benefits of this Scheme;

(d)whether the Scheme has been formulated to benefit a handful of private exporters only;

(e)whether the proposal under the old Scheme, received at the time of formulation of this Scheme, were not considered by Government; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) was approved in July 2005 by merging the erstwhile Textile Centers Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and the Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES).

(b) to (d) Under the SITP, Industry Associations/Groups of Entrepreneurs are the main promoters of the Textile Park by forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The Scheme provides for funding of project through a mix of Equity/Grant from the Government of India (GOI), State Government, State Industrial Development Corporation, and Loan from Banks/Financial Institutions However, the combined equity stake of GOI/State Government/ State Industrial Development Corporation, if any should not exceed 49%. The remaining 51% of the equity will have to be retained by the SPV so that it shall have operational autonomy.

(e) and (f) All projects sanctioned under the APES and TCIDS where works had started before 31.07.2005 are continued to be eligible for government assistance. However, after merger of the schemes, no further proposal was approved under the APES and TCIDS.- The primary reasons for discontinuation of the APES and TCIDS, *inter alia,* include the following:

The schemes heavily depended on the initiative and resources of

State Governments. In many cases, there was no involvement of the industry at the planning and implementation stages.

- Shortage of resources with the State Government to provide advance money as required under the scheme.
- Protracted delays in acquisition/purchase of land.
- Funding was totally based on Government of India subsidy; virtually no efforts was made for leveraging of market funds to address the infrastructure needs comprehensively.

Financial Assistance to Handloom Weavers

1788. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry provides non-institutional finance for handloom weavers; and

(b)ifso, the details of finanace provided for the weavers in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Focus on Handloom Sector

1789. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Textile Policy, 2000 encouraged the shift of allocations from handloom sector to powerloom-mill sector in the name of modernization;

(b) if so, whether Government tried to shift the focus on handloom again; and

(c) what is the share of textile exports of handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The handloom sector